

COME AND SEE



Jesus described the KINGDOM OF GOD as yeast working in dough, invisibly changing the *character* of human civilization by individually changing the *characters* , the human beings. (Matthew 13:33)

Jesus came to this world bringing the nature of God (*love*), doing the work of God (*atonement*), and teaching the will of God (*truth*). What has this accomplished?

Come and see ... **THE CHANGE!**

Prophecy about Jesus ... a Kingdom that would crush evil and supersede political kingdoms AND would never cease to increase.

You will strike his heel (serpent)
He will crush your head (offspring of the woman).

Genesis 3:15

In the time of those kings [*Roman Empire*] God will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or be left to another people [*nonpolitical*]. It will crush [overwhelm, supersede] those kingdoms but will itself endure forever. **(Daniel 2:44)**

If I drive out demons by the Spirit of God,
then the Kingdom of God *has come*
among you. (Matthew 12:28)

Unto us a child is born, to us a son is given.
The government will be upon his shoulders ...
Of the **increase** of his government/rule and
peace, there will be no end. **(Isaiah 9:6-7)**

Predictions of Jesus ... his abundant life will be multiplied into “greater things” than his own miracles AND its scope would grow to have astonishing impact.

I have come in order that you may have life and have it to the *full* [*touching all areas ... physical, mental, social, intellectual as well as spiritual*]. **(John 10:10)**

At least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. Truly, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even *greater things than these* because I am going to my Father. **(John 14:12)**

The kingdom is like a mustard seed ...
smallest of seeds ... largest of plants. The
Kingdom is like yeast ... works all through
the dough. **(Matthew 13:31-33)**

Progress of the Jesus gospel ... The goal of lifting mankind upward into his God given potential and purpose (spiritual, physical, social) has CHANGED human history in countless ways.

How has the “gospel” of Jesus accomplished
CHANGE in our world?

A. THEOLOGY

The Christian church has stubbornly clung to the teaching of Christ that all social evils are symptoms rather than sources and that their solution is actually spiritual (rather than legal, monetary, political, etc).

He will be called Jesus because he will save his people *from their SINS*. **(Matthew 1:21)**

Nothing outside a man can make him unclean by going into him. Rather it is what comes out of a man that makes him unclean ... For from within, out of men's hearts come evil thoughts, immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed ... **(Mark 7:14-23)**

B. TESTIMONY

Countless souls have turned away from evil and into a life of service and “good works” because of the testimony/example of those who exhibited this very victory in their own lives ... crediting the forgiveness of sins and transformation of heart to Jesus Christ

They tell us how you turned to God from idols, to serve the living and true God and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus. (*1 Thessalonians 1:9*)

C. HISTORY

The gospel always has a significant, positive impact on any culture where it is embraced, improving the quality of life, elevating relationships, strengthening society.

Failures? Yes! Evil influences have caused Christians to act in ignorance and greed as well as “Christian” cultures to regress away from the ideal. This is not caused by the Christian gospel but by folks who believe the message of Christ but do not surrender their lives to the power of Christ.

Jesus **forgives** sins and **changes** hearts.

A changed heart desires and endeavors to ameliorate the suffering inflicted by evil men and natural disasters. *This message and mission is the impact of Christ through his followers through the centuries and around the world.*

If you are skeptical about the positive impact of Jesus, you must study history and compare societies and cultures where Jesus was not known or embraced with those where the gospel took hold. **COME AND SEE!**

THE CHALLENGE ... accepting the unique
Identity of Jesus

Nathaniel disbelieved EVEN THOUGH he had never met, observed or conversed with Jesus.

Philip met Nathaniel's skepticism with a challenge to Nathaniel. He believed that **exposure** (to Jesus) and **testimony** (from himself) would win Nathaniel's heart.

“Come and see!”

THE CHOICE ... *An IDEA so impressive that it
requires faith to embrace!*

(Matthew 28:5-7). The angel at the tomb was selling a phenomenal **idea**.

“He is not here [because] he has risen!”

What is required to buy what the angel was selling”?

- Just enough **openness** for truth to get a grip!
- Just enough **faith** to acknowledge the unseen GOD!
- Just enough **love** to long for LIFE to beat back DEATH!

Then the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen, just as he said. COME and SEE the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples ...” **(Matthew 28:5-6)**